Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28782 302106Z ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00 SS-15 VO-03 CA-01 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 SSO-00 /065 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: SREF VN FR

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES (MIRALDA CASE)

REF: STATE 232369

- 1. EMBOFFS PROVIDED USG RESPONSE CONCERNING INDOCHINESE ON MIRALDA WHO WISH TO GO TO THE US TO QUAI OFFICER ON SEPT. 30. THE OFFICER APPRECIATED HEARING OUR VIEWS AND SAID QUAI WOULD GET VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PREPARE THE FILES FOR PROCESSING UNDER "CONDITIONAL ENTRY" PROGRAM.
- 2. QUAI OFFICER WAS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED IN US RESPONSE AND UNDERLINED THAT GOF CONSIDERED USG SHOULD REACT WITH GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE REFUGEES BECAUSE THEY HAD APPARENTLY LEFT VIETNAM BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 28782 302106Z

VOA BROADCAST ABOUT THE US "BOAT-PEOPLE" PROGRAM.
QUAI OFFICER WILL CHECK WITH HIS SUPERIORS, BUT HE
THOUGHT GOF WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPECT US TO TAKE ALL OF
THE 53 WHO ASKED TO GO TO THE US RATHER THAN UTILIZING
THE CRITERIA FOR THE CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM WHICH
RESULTED IN THE REJECTION OF SUCH A LARGE
PERCENTAGE OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN

EUROPE. QUAI WAS ALSO DISTRESSED PARTICULARLY BY THE FACT THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A LONG WAIT FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS WHEN THE BOAT PEOPLE PROGRAM APPEARED TO HAVE NUMBERS READILY AVAILABLE. THE GOF ASSUMED THAT THE USG WOULD EXPECT THE UNHCR TO PAY THE TRANSPORT OF THE 53 REFUGEES FROM SEOUL TO PARIS OUT OF ITS REGULAR FUNDS (QUAI OFFICER IMPLIED FRENCH MIGHT BE REIMBURSING THE UNHCR FOR THE 17 REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY FRANCE). THE OUAI OFFICER ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE INDEED EXPECTED THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN FRANCE, WHO WERE CURRENTLY CARING FOR THESE REFUGEES. TO PAY FOR THEIR FOOD AND LODGING DURING THE MONTHS THEY WOULD SPEND HERE WAITING TO GO TO THE US. HE IMPLIED THAT GOF WOULD NOT BE REIMBURSING THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE FORCED TO TURN ELSEWHERE FOR FUNDS TO CARE FOR THE REFUGEES "DESTINED FOR" THE US.

- 3. AS FOR LOW KEY PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN FRENCH AND US REFUGEE OFFICIALS, QUAI OFFICER THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, AND HE ASKED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING DATE, PLACE, AND MAKEUP OF US PARTY.
- 4. WE INFORMED QUAI ALSO OF INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO OUR EMBASSY IN SEOUL (PARA 4 REFTEL), AND QUAI OFFICIAL EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH US POSITION, BUT THOUGHT IT A LITTLE LATE. (ON THIS OCCASION QUAI OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 28782 302106Z

MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY GOF ACTIONS IN FAVOR OF ROK DIPLOMATS IMPRISONED IN SAIGON AND IMPLIED GOF MIGHT REVISE ITS PREVIOUSLY HUMANITARIAN POSITION CONCERNING THIS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO ROK.)

5. WE EXPECT THAT QUAI WILL DISCUSS THE US POSITION AND BE BACK TO US IN A FORMAL WAY. WHILE QUAI IS OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED IN US POSITION, IT MAY BE PREPARED TO WAIT TO SEE HOW INS ACTUALLY HANDLES THE CONDITIONAL ENTRY REQUEST. IF THE PERCENTAGE OF ACCEPTANCES REMAINS AS LOW AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE RECENT PAST, WE CAN EXPECT STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE GOF OVER WHAT THEY WILL CONSIDER TO BE AN INADEQUATE US RESPONSE. HARTMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

Message Attributes

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